



TRUSTEE SOO WONG

UPDATE

January 2011

Happy New Year! I wish everyone a healthy and productive 2011. This coming year will be another busy one with a number of initiatives being considered by the TDSB and the community.

In this new year, we have one administrative change. I like to welcome Janice Kent, principal at Pauline Johnson PS, to our family of schools. I want to acknowledge the contribution of Gord Young to the Pauline Johnson school community and wish him well in his new west end elementary school.

This new year also sees a change in the PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee) representatives for Ward 20. I like to welcome the two Ward 20 reps: Faraz Chaudhery (PIAC rep; parent at Highland Heights PS) and Sudershan Singh (PIAC alternate rep; parent at Vradenburg PS). I also want to welcome Mary Chong Sue (parent at Lynngate PS) who will work with me to create the Ward 20 Council. I would like to thank Donna Coughlan, former Ward 20 PIAC rep, for her leadership and contribution to PIAC. Besides being Ward 20 PIAC rep, she was also PIAC Co-chair during the past year.

I am working on a number of initiatives in the ward and at the Board level. They include the following:

TRAFFIC ISSUES

During the past 6 months, I have received numerous complaints about traffic congestion around our schools. This problem is especially challenging in schools with specialty programs (such as gifted, French immersion, full day learning). Hence, I plan to create a Traffic Working Group with representation from principals, local councillors, Toronto Police, and facility staff to discuss this ongoing traffic problem and to find solutions to resolve this issue.

Please remind your parents to observe safe drop-off procedures.

STUDENT LEADERS

Last summer, I began meeting regularly with secondary student leaders in the ward to discuss student issues. I am currently working with student leaders to plan the upcoming the Ward 20 Social Justice event. Information about this event will be available shortly.

READING CIRCLE

The expansion and renovation of the Bridlewood Library have affected the weekly Reading Circle program. The Bridlewood Library is re-located on the lower level of Bridlewood Mall beside Shopper Drug Mart. It will re-open at the end of January. Hence, we will be resuming the Reading Circle program on **Saturday, January 29** (see attached flyer).

SURVIVAL CAMP 101

Current TDSB data revealed that the transition period from TDSB to post-secondary institutions has not been a successful one. Over the Christmas holiday, I had an opportunity to meet with Gorick Ng, former TDSB student trustee, and currently a 1st year student at Harvard University, to plan the upcoming Survival Camp to support our grade 12 students to ensure smooth transition from high school to university/college. Besides Gorick Ng, I've invited two former TDSB graduates (Danusha Jebanesan, former L'Amoreaux graduate currently at U of T Scarborough campus; Jenny Zhang, former Bethune student currently at York University) to be part of the Planning Team to organize the Survival Camp. Information about this Camp will be available in early February.

3rd ANNUAL TDSB-ROTARY RESUME WORKSHOP

Once again, this spring, I will be hosting the 3rd annual Ward 20 Resume Workshop in partnership with Scarborough-Agincourt Rotary Club. This year the date of the Resume Workshop is April 21, 2011. Each spring, Rotarians volunteer their time and expertise to support our students in finding summer employment. Information about this annual Workshop will be available in early March.

KENYA WATER PROJECT

In early December, I hosted an event with Scarborough-Agincourt Rotary Club and invited Madame Evelyn Nabukwesi, wife of the High Commissioner of Kenya to attend a presentation at Tam O'Shanter PS. At this event, the Scarborough-Agincourt Rotary Club and Principal Paul Harvey presented a cheque of almost \$6,000 for the Khachonge Primary School water well project. Tam O'Shanter PS is twinned with Khachonge Primary School. A number of Ward 20 elementary schools, Tam O'Shanter PS and Beverly Glen PS along with Highcastle P.S., Norman

Cook P.S., Anson Park P.S., Scarborough Village P.S., and Donview M.S. have been involved in raising funds from the 2010 Bandfest to support this water well project.

LITERACY INITIATIVE

Last spring, Scarborough-Agincourt Rotary Club generously donated \$20,000 toward the Ward 20 literacy initiative. The fund was shared by all elementary schools in the ward; the fund was used toward the purchase of resources to support and promote literacy among the grades 1 – 3 students. On January 13th, I hosted a literacy event to recognize the generosity of the Scarborough-Agincourt Rotary Club. At this event, all the principals shared with the Rotarians their 2010 literacy project and how they used the donation.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Shortly, we will be celebrating the year of Rabbit. I know there will be many celebrations planned by the schools. I will try my best to attend your school's new year celebration. Please forward information about your school Chinese New Year event to Rob Little (rob.little@tdsb.on.ca) and he can confirm my attendance.

Once again, I will be sending the red envelopes to all grade 1 students. You will be receiving the envelopes by mid-January. Please ensure these envelopes are given to your students prior to February 3rd.

MARCH BREAK CAMP

The March Break Camp runs from March 14-18 at Woburn and George Vanier Collegiates. Flyer is attached.

SIR JOHN A MACDONALD'S MEDALLION PROGRAM

I am working with Principal Rick Tarasuk and Deputy Director Donna Quan to promote the Medallion program at Sir John A MacDonald CI. This is an unique and enriched program and is only available at this school. For more information, contact rick.tarasuk@tdsb.on.ca

The Medallion program at Sir John A. Macdonald is a focused program aimed at preparing students for university programs in Life Sciences, Engineering, Architecture, and Business. The Medallion program offers an enriched learning environment in English, Mathematics, and Science.

DR NORMAN BETHUNE C.I.

Congratulations to staff and students at Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. on receiving the Dr. Bette M. Stephenson Recognition of Achievement from the EQAO. Bethune is one of 21 secondary schools being recognized.

BOARD RETREAT

From January 9 – 10th, I attended the Board retreat to discuss our priorities and strategic directions. The trustees had an opportunity to meet senior TDSB staff to discuss various educational issues. The retreat also provided an opportunity to review and discuss the draft TDSB 2010-2011 Vision of Hope Environmental Scan Report and data (ie. demographics, mobility pattern, new students, enrolment patterns, achievement patterns). I plan to share the TDSB data once this report is finalized.

The Board will be finalizing the 2011 – 2014 priorities and strategic directions by April 2011.

BOARD ACCOUNTABILITY

Since December, the Director has been meeting with the Board of Trustees on a monthly basis. This meeting is only attended by Trustees and the Director. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss Board or staff specific issues/concerns.

Shortly, the Trustees will be conducting the Director's Annual Performance Review. This Review should be completed by June 2011. Besides the reviewing the Director's performance, the Trustees are also working on developing the performance indicators to review other senior staff and area superintendents' performance.

WASTELESS LUNCH

Information from JB Tyrrell Senior School

Attention, Tyrrell Tigers! Pack a waste-free lunch!

Why should you pack a waste-free lunch?

First, it costs less!

Second, it's great for the environment!

Third, it's healthier!

Food For Thought:

Did you know the average student lunch generates about 30 kg of waste per school year!!?

That's **8500 kg** of waste per school, per year!

Don't know how to pack a waste-free lunch?

Bring a **REUSABLE** lunch carrier, a **REUSABLE** food container (plastic), a **REUSABLE** drink bottle (Kleen Kanteen bottles are still on sale!), a cloth napkin to wash and re-use, and **SILVER** cutlery to wash and re-use. Bring **HEALTHY** snacks, like apples and bananas! **AVOID** paper or plastic bags, plastic wrap, foil, or **STYROFOAM**, single-use cans, bottles, cartons, paper napkins, plastic cutlery, and **OVER-PACKAGED SNACKS!!!**

Did you know?

A waste-free lunch is **\$245.40** cheaper than regular lunches PER YEAR!

That's an iPod Nano!

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

See attachments

EPI PEN UPDATE

New changes to EpiPens.. King Pharmaceuticals has revamped EpiPens to make them more user-friendly. They have stopped manufacturing the old EpiPens, and anyone replacing an expired EpiPen will now be given the new ones. The new EpiPens have coloured tips, they are more ergonomic to hold, and the needle is no longer exposed after use. The downside is that they are somewhat larger, so children who carry them on their person may have to get a different holder to accommodate them.

<http://epipen.ca/CONSUMERS/English/videos.cfm>

DIABETES EDUCATION

Information is available in many languages:

<http://www.diabetes.ca/diabetes-and-you/nutrition/just-basics/>

Invitation to the Family Education Day - Caring for your Child and Empowering Yourself



YOU'RE INVITED!
PLEASE FORWARD



Family Education Day

*Caring for Your Child;
Empowering Yourself*

WHEN:

**Saturday, February 19, 2011
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

WHERE:

**Hollywood Theatre
SickKids**

COST:

FREE

(Lunch is included)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

MIRIAM WEXLER @ miriam.wexler@sickkids.ca

TO REGISTER CLICK HERE:

**[HTTP://GUEST.CVENT.COM/D/GDQGCGX](http://GUEST.CVENT.COM/D/GDQGCGX)
[Family Day Website](#)**